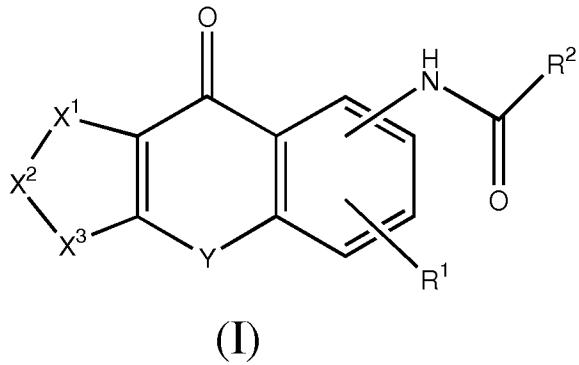


a.) Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An antitussive which comprises, as an active ingredient, a~~ A method for alleviating a cough, which comprises administering, to a patient in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a tricyclic compound represented by Formula (I)



{ wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen,

X¹-X²-X³ represents CR⁵=CR⁶-CR⁷=CR⁸ [wherein R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl) substituted amino, di(lower alkyl) substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen], N(O)ₘ=CR⁶-CR⁷=CR⁸ (wherein R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively and m represents 0 or 1), CR⁵=CR⁶-N(O)ₘ=CR⁸ (wherein R⁵, R⁶, R⁸ and m have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), CR⁵=CR⁶-CR⁷=N(O)ₘ (wherein R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and m have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), CR⁵=CR⁶-O (wherein R⁵ and R⁶ have the same meanings

~~as defined above, respectively independently represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen), CR⁵=CR⁶-S (wherein R⁵ and R⁶ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively), O-CR⁷=CR⁸ (wherein R⁷ and R⁸ have the same meanings as R⁵ and R⁶ defined above, respectively), or S-CR⁷=CR⁸ (wherein R⁷ and R⁸ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) or O-CR⁷=N (wherein R⁷ has the same meaning as defined above),~~

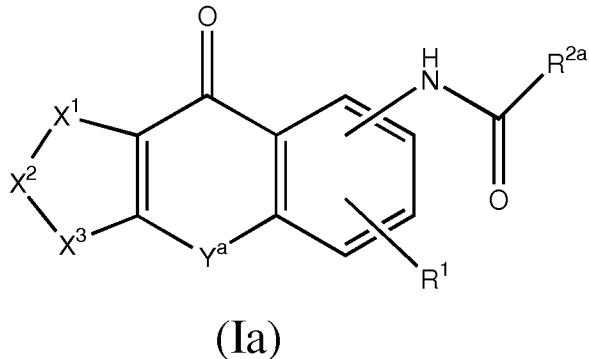
Y represents -CH₂S-, -CH₂SO-, -CH₂SO₂-, -CH₂O-, -CH=CH-, (CH₂)_p-
(wherein p represents an integer of 0 to 2), -SCH₂-, -SOCH₂-, -SO₂CH₂- or -OCH₂-, and

R² represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, amino, mono(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group}

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An antitussive which comprises, as an active ingredient, a~~ A method for alleviating a cough, which comprises administering, to a patient

in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a tricyclic compound represented by Formula (Ia)



(Ia)

[wherein R¹ and ~~X¹-X²-X³~~ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively, represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen,

X¹-X²-X³ represents CR⁵=CR⁶-O (wherein R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen),

Y¹ represents -CH₂SO₂-, -SCH₂-, -SOCH₂-, -SO₂CH₂- or -OCH₂- and or -OCH₂-, and

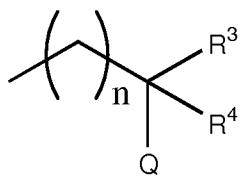
with the proviso that when Y¹ is -CH₂SO₂-, -SCH₂-, -SOCH₂- or -SO₂CH₂-, then

R²a represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy,

amino, mono(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroalicyclic group, or a substituted or unsubstituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group and

with the proviso that when Y^a is -OCH₂-, then

R^{2a} represents a hydrogen atom, trifluoromethyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, amino, mono(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroalicyclic group, a substituted or unsubstituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, or Formula (II)



(II)

(wherein n is 0 or 1; R³ and R⁴ may be the same or different and represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, or R³ and R⁴ may be combined together with the adjacent carbon atom thereto to form

cycloalkyl; and Q represents hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, amino or halogen)]

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 2,
wherein Y^a is -CH₂SO₂⁻, -SCH₂⁻, -SOCH₂⁻ or -SO₂CH₂⁻.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 2,
wherein Y^a is -OCH₂⁻.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of
Claims 2 to 4, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or
halogen.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of
Claims 2 to 4, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to claim 2,
wherein Y^a is -CH₂SO₂-⁻, -SO₂CH₂- or -OCH₂- and R¹ is a hydrogen atom, substituted or
unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen.

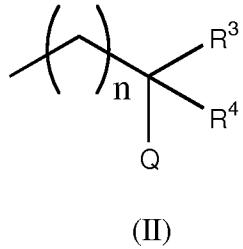
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to claim 2,
wherein Y^a is -CH₂SO₂-⁻ or -SO₂CH₂- and R¹ is a hydrogen atom, substituted or
unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to claim 2,
wherein Y^a is -CH₂SO₂-⁻ and R¹ is a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower
alkoxy or halogen.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of
claims 2 to 4, wherein X¹-X²-X³ is S-CR⁷=CR⁸ (wherein R⁷ and R⁸ ~~have the same~~
~~meanings as defined above, respectively~~) independently represent a hydrogen atom,
substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower
alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted
amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen).

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein R^{2a} is Formula (II)



(wherein n, R³, R⁴ and Q have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).

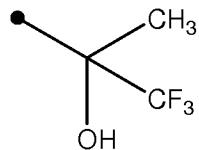
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 12, wherein n is 0.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 13, wherein R³ is methyl, R⁴ is trifluoromethyl, and Q is hydroxy.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 2, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom, Y^a is -CH₂SO₂-^a, X¹-X²-X³ is S-CR⁷=CR⁸ (wherein R⁷ and R⁸ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) independently represent a

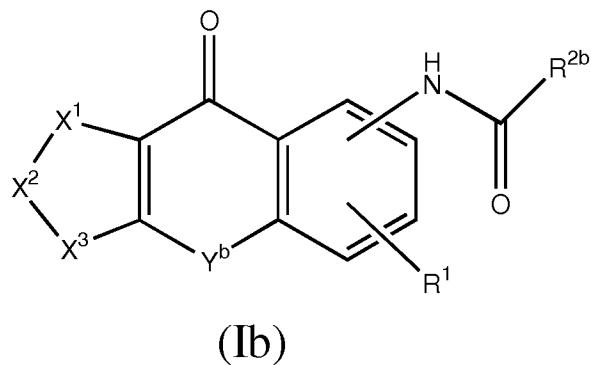
hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino or halogen),
and

R² is Formula (III)



(III)

16. (Currently Amended) An antitussive which comprises, as an active ingredient, a A method for alleviating of a cough, which comprises administering, to a patient in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a tricyclic compound represented by Formula (Ib)



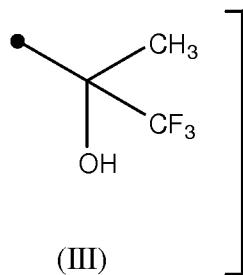
(Ib)

[wherein R¹ and X¹-X²-X³ have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively represents a halogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,
substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy or halogen,

X¹-X²-X³ represents CR⁵=CR⁶-O, CR⁵=CR⁶-S, O-CR⁷=CR⁸, or S-CR⁷+CR⁸
(wherein R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted
lower alkyl, hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, nitro, amino, mono(lower
alkyl)-substituted amino, di(lower alkyl)-substituted amino, substituted or unsubstituted
lower alkanoyl amino or halogen, and R⁷ and R⁸ have the same meaning as R⁵ and R⁶,
respectively,

Y^b represents -CH₂O-, CH₂S-, CH₂SO-, CH=CH- or (CH₂)_p (wherein p
has the same meaning as defined above) -CH₂O-, -CH₂S- or -CH₂SO-, and

R^{2b} represents Formula (III)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 16, wherein X¹-X²-X³ is CR⁵=CR⁶-O (~~wherein R⁵ and R⁶ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively or CR⁵=CR⁶-S (~~wherein R⁵ and R⁶ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively~~)~~).

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to Claim 16, wherein X¹-X²-X³ is O-CR⁷=CR⁸ (~~wherein R⁷ and R⁸ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively or S-CR⁷=CR⁸ (~~wherein R⁷ and R⁸ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively~~)~~).

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of ~~Claims 16 to 19~~ Claims 16, 18 and 19, wherein Y^b is -CH₂O-.

Claims 21-24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~antitussive~~ method according to any of ~~Claims 16 to 19~~ Claims 16, 18 and 19, wherein Y^b is -CH₂S- or -CH₂SO-.

Claims 26-27 (Cancelled).